

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
21 July 2005 (21.07.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/067289 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04N 5/76, 5/00**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2004/004216

(22) International Filing Date:  
10 December 2004 (10.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0351230 30 December 2003 (30.12.2003) FR

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

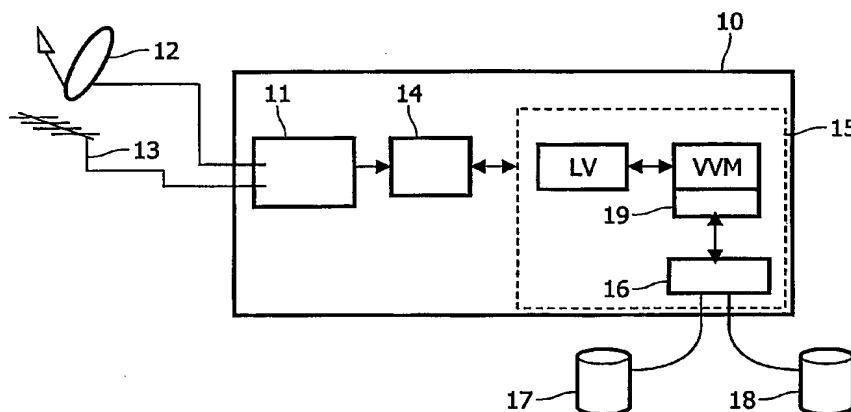
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **DEVICE AND METHOD FOR STORING AUDIO/VIDEO DATA IN A HOME NETWORK**



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method and a device for storing audio/video data in a home network. They allow addition of storage possibilities to apparatuses of the set-top box type which do not have or cannot develop them so as to extend the functionality of the apparatus without a software update, dependent on connections/disconnections of peripheral storage equipment. To this end, the invention provides a virtual management of the storage possibilities within one and the same apparatus. An abstraction layer is realized above the physical storage support by software storage means co-operating with control means so as to hide details on the used peripheral storage unit or units from the application. For an application requiring storage of audio/video data, the operation is transparent. The peripheral storage units are detected when they are "hot", dependent on their connection/disconnection, and are taken into account by the control means at the level of the available storage capacity. The application conducts a dialogue only with a single interface for its storage needs, while the control means co-operate with the software storage means for managing the transfer of data to and from the different peripheral storage units.

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EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU,

IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

**Published:**

— with international search report

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